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The Oracle 12/21/1934

Gorham Normal School

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THE ORACLE

VOL. 12

GORHAM NORMAL SCHOOL, GORHAM, MAINE, DECEMBER 21, 1934

No. 2

DRAMATIC CLUB TO PRESENT THREE-ACT COMEDY

"Henry Tells the Truth", a comedy in three acts, will be presented sometime after Christmas. The story concerns the trials of Henry Wallace, a young man who firmly believes that "to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth" is the only policy to pursue. The embarrassing situations that result from such a course can easily be imagined. Chief among them is the occasion when Henry takes Phyllis Rankin, his fiancée, to a dance, and then tells her when she steps all over his feet. Similar expressions of honesty soon cause him to lose his business, because he will not tell his customers that his merchandise possesses qualities that he knows are lacking. Poor Henry! His only satisfaction comes from telling his alleged friends what he really thinks of them. Finally, however, he proves that his ideals have been worth fighting for after all.

Chief among Henry's rivals is Bruce Baird, a young traveling salesman who gains the attentions of Phyllis because he has no qualms about telling untruths, and is an expert at flattery. One of the chief contributors to the comedy of the play is Louise Albright, who has been engaged three times, but has lost each prospective husband just before a marriage ceremony can be performed. Another whose antics are sure to be enjoyed is Pierce Rankins, mischievous younger brother of Phyllis. These and many others give promise of furnishing a most entertaining evening's performance.

MR. CILLEY ATTENDS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Many interesting and instructive methods in modern educational systems were revealed in a recent interview with Mr. Lawrence Cilley of the Industrial Arts Department of Gorham Normal School. Mr. Cilley was sent as a State Representative to the National Convention of the American Vocational Association held December 5-8 in Pittsburg, Penn.

Mr. Cilley, president of the Maine branch of this organization, said that the first act of importance was the election of a president of the National Association of State Presidents. Mr. Stephen Patrick, a former Gorham resident, received this honor and great progress is expected under his capable supervision.

One of the most novel and thoroughly worth while projects developed in the scholastic field was seen in the Colony Trade School at Pittsburg, which our representative visited. Here boys of high school age are given instruction. They devote one week to the trades and the following week to the rudiments of academic studies. This procedure, alternating during the school term, offers to the adolescents a practical and beneficial course, fitting them for positions. The terms of scholastic training are not determined by specific dates; rather it is up to the boy to advance at his own rate of speed. During the noon hour, the boys are entertained by educational motion pictures. These students

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G. N. S. ORGANIZATIONS SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER

MISS HARRIS HONORED



Miss Emma F. Harris, the teacher of the kindergarten in the practice school of the normal school, who is now studying for her bachelor's degree at Boston University, School of Education, has been elected to Pi Lambda Theta, Alpha Gamma chapter, a national honorary educational fraternity for women. The membership of Pi Lambda Theta is based upon high standards of scholarship and character evidenced in exceptional promise of professional skill. To secure and maintain an interest in educational affairs and social progress, the organization is active in collegiate leadership and professional research.

IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL MEETING

The last of seventeen regional meetings held in this state and addressed by the Commissioner of Education, Hon. Bertram E. Packard, and the expert employed by the Maine Public School Finance Commission, Dr. Paul R. Mort of Teachers College, Columbia University, was held in the auditorium of Portland High School, Friday evening, November 23.

This meeting was opened by Superintendent John T. Gyger of Falmouth, who had been responsible for organizing and advertising the meeting. Superintendent Gyger, who was a speaker at the Superintendents' Day at Gorham Normal School this fall, presented the chairman of the Commission, President Kenneth C. M. Sills of Bowdoin College, who addressed the meeting briefly and introduced the speakers of the evening. On the platform besides the speakers and some members of the commission who were present, sat the members-elect to the next legislature from Cumberland County. Both speakers presented in a clear and attractive way a synopsis of the 270-page report published by the commission. The commission, authorized by the last legis-

Continued on Page 3, Column 2

The first jingles of Christmas were heard at the merry dance sponsored by the Massachusetts Club December 8. "Center" was a Yuletide wonderland of balsam, tinsel, and Christmas decorations. Santa with his pop-corn balls was a welcome visitor.

The annual Y. W. C. A. Bazaar was given December 13, providing all with an opportunity to do their Christmas shopping early. To climax the afternoon affair, a minstrel show, sizzling with laughter and comedy was presented. Josephine Pyska, Bernice Nielson, Maxine Clemons, and Bertha Bridges were the soloists. The entire program was under the efficient leadership of Alyce Tuck.

The spirit of Christmas reigned high at the Commuters' Club dance December 17. It was a big success; the orchestra was good; and a short but excellent program was presented. Dances at G. N. S. are always enjoyable, but Christmas dances are the best ever.

The annual Christmas party sponsored by the House Committee was held Wednesday evening December 19, in East Hall dining room. Christmas cheer was spread in the form of presents for everyone, and the Spirit of St. Nick predominated beneath the high Christmas tree.

Following the party the student body went to Russell Hall to enjoy the Cantata, "The Story of Christmas", presented by the combined Glee Clubs. Excellent solo work was done by Faith Shesong, Elizabeth Peterson, Roberta French, Richard Barbour, Earl Achorn, and Monroe Bean. The accompanist was Avis Hinds. It is due to the skillful directing of Miss Andrews that the evening was pronounced the greatest success of the Christmas season.

The closing features of the Christmas program came Thursday, December 20, when three events of unusual interest occurred.

Miss Lewis was the guest speaker at the final Y. W. C. A. program. Her subject was "Pictures of Madonnas". She has made an extensive collection of famous Madonna pictures, and her talk was illustrated by these.

After the Glee Clubs had sung carols to the shut-ins of Gorham, all members of the school went to the gymnasium and witnessed an exciting basketball game between Gorham and Keene Normal.

We can truly say that this Christmas season has been one of the happiest and most eventful that has ever been spent on Normal Hill.

MRS. LINCOLN READS IN CHAPEL

Tuesday morning, December 11, Mrs. Lincoln read "The Flattering Word" by Kelly to the students and teachers of Gorham Normal School.

The members of the school always look forward with great anticipation to the visits of Mrs. Lincoln, and well they may. Everything she read to us during her recent visit was a perfect delight.

"THE ORACLE" STAFF

(1934-1935)

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THE VALUE OF THE EDUCATIONAL SURVEY

The survey of educational conditions in Maine is one of the most valuable to prospective teachers that has been carried on in the State during the past year. This has revealed that Maine has not so high an educational standing as the leaders of the State desire. Maine now realizes, that if education is to be the door to a more complete living, greater investments must be made in training her youth for the future.

In order that these new funds may be used to the greatest advantage the teachers must be prepared to meet the new goals set by the educational leaders. Teachers must have a broader and more modern training; they must learn how to conduct creative classes and encourage their pupils to do creative work. They must be willing to spend more time in supervised teaching as well as to devote more of their summers to a wider development of their own education, in preparation for carrying out new courses and introducing new methods in all classes.

In return for their efforts, teachers will have better equipped schoolrooms, smaller and more homogeneous classes, adequate supplies, efficient janitor service, and increased salaries.

The teachers of Maine will be called upon to do their part in the new reconstruction of the educational system of the State. They must realize that higher education is now a necessity, sacrifices must be made for the purpose of new training that will eventually lead to the betterment of the school system. Gorham Normal School has recognized this situation and, by the adoption of the three year courses, has taken the first step toward becoming a teachers' college.

ETIQUETTE

Just what is etiquette? Webster calls it "the forms required by good breeding or prescribed by authority, to be observed in social or official life". Another dictionary describes etiquette as "conventional rules observed in polite society". Actually, etiquette is practicing the Golden Rule—showing consideration for the rights and feelings of others.

Today, it seems, younger America is not acquainted with the niceties observed in good society. Forms of good etiquette are abused, slang phrases are substituted for correct English, and a flippant attitude is noticeable. Seriously, things look rather bad.

Dr. Ruth Strang, Assistant Professor of Education at Teachers' College, Columbia University, sent out a questionnaire of one hundred items covering table manners, good taste in dress and appearance, manners for guest and host, good forms in walking with companions, behavior in a group, respect for property, and good manners at performances and games. The result of the questionnaire, which went to four thousand one hundred fourteen boys and girls in high schools throughout the country, showed that misconceptions regarding the technique of etiquette and principles underlying politeness exist to a marked degree.

Youth has his greater contact with teachers. Obviously, there arises a need for teachers who unconsciously practice good social habits which may leave impressions upon the minds of appreciative students.

It may be concluded that prospective teachers who are training in normal schools and colleges must obtain, while in school, a knowledge of good social behavior, for "knowing the proper thing to do promotes calm and confidence".

LIBRARY NOTES

Jugoslavia, the country just disturbed by the tragic death of its king, is brought nearer America in "The Native's Return" by Louis Adamic. He recently visited his native land, and in this book he tells of his travels there.

"The Picture Book of Ships" was bought for the juvenile section, but it is recommended for those industrial arts students who are interested in model making. Miss Jencks says they will find it a handy helper.

If you are going to teach United States History to children, you should read the nicely illustrated book "The Voyagers" by Padriac Column. Another history recently added to our library is "Legends of Discovery."

THE QUESTION BOX

Why is there not a special room set aside for commuters in which they may spend their noon hours during the winter months?

As far as it is known, the commuters as a group have expressed no desire for a room of this type. The first move to carry out this plan should come from the Commuters' Club. If the members of the Club should ask for a room, they may be assured they would receive the whole-hearted co-operation of the school.

Should prospective teachers chew gum?

We can easily answer this question in one word—NO.

We have a brand-new flag pole; one of the best ever made. Why not use it,—especially on holidays?

Observe more carefully and see if it isn't used on those days when it is customary to have flags raised.

Why can't Gorham Normal School girls have a varsity basket-ball team which can play other school teams, whereby the girls may earn a letter for playing a specified number of games?

When a girl graduates from high school and goes to a higher school, her class team should mean as much to her as did the varsity team in high school; and there should be as much pleasure and competition in playing other class teams as there was in playing other schools.

Gorham Normal School offers a monogram to girls who excel in various phases of the athletic program. This monogram includes more than credit for playing on a varsity team and is the highest athletic reward. Therefore, it should mean more to one than did a high school letter.

Why can't Gorham Normal School have gym dances?

The majority of the dances held during the year are sponsored by some organization for the purpose of raising a certain amount of money for a definite purpose.

The gymnasium is very expensive to decorate and much more difficult to heat than is "Center". The amount received from tickets would not cover these two costs, and the organizations would soon be in debt. (Another reason—and very important—gymnasium work and waxed floors do not go together.) Last year a new floor was laid in "Center" to make it a more desirable place in which to dance. Therefore, while the organizations are sponsoring the dances, "Center" is the most desirable place in which to hold them.

Why did the school fail to support the engagement of the Shakesperean Players?

Was it primarily a matter of cost?

It is believed that it was not a matter of cost.

Was it a question of comparative values?

It is thought that it was primarily a question of comparative values. The students have to make a choice between the types of entertainment they most desire, and it is very evident that this did not meet their requirements.

Was it poor motivation?

Partly, yes. However, not poor motivation on the part of the school but on the part of the company which failed to supply us with the necessary advertising matter. If we had this, we feel sure we should have received stronger support from outside schools.

FACULTY FACTS

A boy with high school numerals "22" on his sweater loaded heavy bags of grain into a farm wagon. That was his job on Saturdays and after school hours at the Gorham Grain Store.

The farmer buying the grain watched the boy work.

"Everett," he said, "when are you going to lend me that million dollars anyway?"

Matching the casualness of the question, the boy replied, "About the same time I get to teaching up on the Hill I guess."

They both laughed. Such impossibilities!

The farmer drove away. Time passed. The boy graduated from High School, from Gorham Normal School, and later received his degree from Rutgers University.

He took a chance and taught two weeks without any assurance that the pay or position was secure.

Later he taught at Wellesley Hills, Mass., but when opportunity offered, he returned to Gorham to organize and teach a course in printing at the Normal School. They wanted him to stay longer in Massachusetts and tempted him with larger pay checks to no avail.

To him large cities and salaries can never compare favorably with Gorham neighborliness and friends.

Today Mr. Packard is teaching on the "Hill". He can't lend you or anyone else a million dollars. But he does have a wealth of information and optimism to pass on to Industrial Arts students.

"Let me build a house
By the side of the road
And be a friend to man."

Eric Chandler.

I'D TRY TO BE

I'd try to be a room-mate worth while.
If not with knowledge, I'd lend a smile;
I'd loan my books and pencils, too;
I'd expect the very same of you.

As quick in praise as reprimand.
With homework, I'd lend a hand.
I'd get assignments the first time,
If you lost yours, then we'd have mine.

I'd read a book of science or skit,
And increase my knowledge bit by bit.
A room-mate I'd try to be,
With Love, Honor, and Charity.

Karlton Evon Higgins.

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may attend a six weeks summer course if they desire rapid advancement. The principals employed is that academic subjects should be correlated with definite trades. Many schools of the United States are accepting this theory with success. In our vicinity Mr. Dwight Parker of the Lincoln Junior High School has adopted the plan.

Beginning January 3, this Association is to have a nation-wide broadcast every Wednesday for a period of eighteen weeks. These programs feature nationally known speakers who will discuss subjects relative to juvenile educational procedures.

This Vocational Association is patterned on the same line as our Teachers' Association with one exception: the former is strictly vocational.

We are grateful to Mr. Cilley for the interview which gives us a clearer perception of the educational opportunities offered in our country. With such noble aims this association cannot fail to do its part in our long stride to train every boy and girl to become an educated citizen, better prepared to serve God and country.

RANGERS' QUARTET COMES

Gorham Normal School was especially privileged Tuesday night, November 20, to have the Rangers' Quartet of Boston, presenting a concert at Russell Hall.

The director and second tenor of the group, Mr. Norman Arnold, had visited the school before with another group, and his return was anticipated with pleasure. The vocal numbers were exceedingly well-done, showing perfect harmony and time. Mr. Frank, the accompanist, gave a piano imitation of a music box, which was particularly well-liked as was Mr. Arnold's vocal solo, "Short'nin' bread".

This concert was the first of a series of entertainments sponsored by the entertainment committee of Gorham Normal School, and the student body is looking forward to the others with pleasure.

QUARTET SINGS
AT FALMOUTH HOTEL

Thursday, December 13, the quartet of Gorham Normal School, consisting of Richard Barbour, Arnold Walker, Earl Achorn, and Monroe Bean, sang at the meeting of the Fish and Game Society which was held at the Falmouth Hotel in Portland. This was a signal honor for these boys, because it marked their second appearance as professionals. Avis Hinds was the accompanist.

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lature, has done its work in a very able manner, and it now becomes the task of the next legislature to take the proper action to carry out the recommendations of the commission. Anything less than that means the waste of the many thousands of dollars expended in securing the data for the recommendations based thereon; and it also means continuing a tax system which does not supply an adequate amount for the proper maintenance of the public schools of Maine. The Maine Teachers Association, which provided \$3000 of the money needed for the survey and the report, has a right to be interested in seeing that some return is made for its generous donation.

THE VALUE OF
PLEASING MANNERS

The quality of a person's manners is generally a good indication of the nature of his character. Manners are an index to his tastes, his feelings, his temper, and often to the kind of company he has been accustomed to keep.

Artificial politeness is an attempt to deceive, an effort to make others believe that we are what we are not; while true

politeness, I believe, is the outward expression of the natural character. True politeness must be born of sincerity. It must be the response of the heart, otherwise it makes no lasting impression, because no amount of "surface polish" can be substituted for honesty and truthfulness.

Good manners are developed through a spirit tinged deeply with unselfishness, kindness, justice, and generosity. A person possessed of these qualities will be found gentle and polite. I believe good manners should be essentials in our education, and that they cannot be too strongly emphasized when we realize that they are but the outward expression of inward virtues. Among the qualities which contribute to complete happiness, sincere politeness takes first rank.

James Dube.

JINGLES

* Miss Wood: "Did you shake your head, Mr. O'Brien?"

Warren Herbert: "No, that was some other noise."

Phyllis Lancaster tells the one about the fellow who boasted:

"When I was in Rockefeller Center, they treated me as if I owned the place." "Perhaps," he was told, "you gave the waiter a dime."

Miss Andrews (at Cantata rehearsal): "Come right in, Mr. Dube, we need some one to fill up these extra chairs."

Gathered Here and There

"If you don't c #, you'll soon be b"

Anna Burke

"Life is just a bowl of cherries"

Wallace Hart

"Uncertainty is the essence of romance"

Grace Perry

"Kid's lit"

Keith Selwood

"If there is no other alternative"

Arthur Comeau

"I just get a kick out of living"

Adelbert Seely

"When you lose your sole there is no hope"

Pete Ronco

Miss Andrews, rehearsing the Glee Club on a certain part of music: "Tenors, Shake Thyself."

Robert French: "Shakespeare says that the best men are moulded out of faults."

Helen Knight: "If that's the case, what a wonderful opportunity most of us have."

Vera Hobson is a strong advocate of "Woodbury's" soft soap, so says Keith Jordan.

Baily: "Mr. Woodward, what is that fence up by 'lovers' lane'?"

Mr. Woodward: "I don't know; I haven't been up there—lately."

It is rumored that Stapleford will soon put a red and white pole out in front of his house—for Normal Boys only.

Eleanor Parker: "You fool!"

Earl Achorn: "I don't!"

'TIS TRUE

A school paper is a great invention;
The school gets all the fame,
The printers get no money,
And the staff gets all the blame.



OUTDOOR CLUB

Look here! Something new is to be included under the Women's Athletic news. There has been some discussion as to where the Outdoor Club news should be placed in the "Oracle". After careful consideration we believe it is most appropriate to devote a part of the space set aside for athletics to the activities of this organization.

This Club has been most active this year. Already the members have gone on eight hikes. Of these, one was an all day hike which was enjoyed by many. A feature of another hike was the marsh-mallow roast.

Under the leadership of their president, Virginia Maines, the members are looking forward to a successful continuation of their activities during the year 1935.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

The girls of the Gorham Normal School certainly accepted the challenge in our last issue and showed their enthusiasm November 1st in coming out for basketball.

All the players have been divided into several teams. Names have been chosen by the members of each team to show their fighting spirit, and captains have been elected to lead them on to success. Those chosen as captains are Evelyn Moulton for the "Spitfires", Bertha Bridges for the "Scrapers", Ella Johnson for the "Bulldogs", Christine Larson for the "Wacks", Doris Hunt for the "Black Horses", and Henrietta Lidback for the "Whizbangs". The teams have been working hard each week toward the championship. The leading teams as they now stand are the "Bulldogs", the "Wacks", and the "Spitfires".

After these "Round Robin" games have been played, first and second teams are to be chosen, then an interclass tournament is to be held which will be of particular interest to all.

Games are played every Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at 3:30. They say that a word to the wise is sufficient. Therefore we say, "Show your school spirit; everybody come and support your favorite team."

VARSITY BASKETBALL

The basketball season opened officially Friday night, December 14, when the Green and White cluster took over the Rhode Island College of Education team in an exciting contest. Score 42 to 31. The starting lineup was Capt. Webb, John Horn, Karlton Higgins, Forest Wardwell, and "Red" Marston. Although the team didn't function too smoothly at times, it

served notice that a good account of itself will be given in the future.

Last night the boys faced their major rival, Keene, at Russell Hall. This game marked the second encounter of the year between two teams representing these schools. A large crowd attended the game which was an exciting contest from all points of view.

The schedule of games for this season follows:

- *Jan. 4 Fryeburg Academy
- Jan. 11 Bridgton Academy
- *Jan. 18 Salem Teachers' College
- *Jan. 19 Keene Normal School
- Feb. 2 Salem Teachers' College
- Feb. 8 (pending)
- Feb. 15 (pending)
- Feb. 22 Fryeburg Academy

(* Away)

This schedule is the hardest attempted by a Gorham team. There are no high school games or "breather" games and the team will be forced to its utmost. As last year, Gorham will make a three day trip to Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

On March 1st and 2nd the Small School Tournament will be held at the gymnasium with the leading small school teams in Cumberland and York Counties taking part.

INDOOR FOOTBALL

Although few people know about it, a highly interesting game called "Indoor Football" was played, not long ago, in the gloomy corridors of Corthell Hall. Friday, December 7, was the date of the most interesting game of the "season" according to witnesses. Some of the "grave and dignified" seniors were engaged in a friendly contest when a one man team in the person of Dr. Russell suddenly appeared on the field. He immediately got possession of the offensive pigskin and carried it into the "touchdown area" which we more enlightened people call the office. I would never do to name the gridsters, but True Bailey, Raymond Bowman, and Frank Tupper had unusually long faces that afternoon. (Bailey owned the football.)

INTERCLASS BASKETBALL

Abandoning the old idea of a major and a minor basketball team from each class, Coach Wieden has a new plan whereby every boy in school gets a chance to play basketball if he desires. Varsity candidates are not allowed to compete and games are staged every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons. There are three teams from each class and a total of twenty-four games is to be played. Witnessing one of the games is a sure cure for the "blues".

In the initial encounter, a group of Advanced Seniors, composed of Walker, Chandler, Bean, Ronco, Huff, and Twitchell won over the Mid-Senior team. The final score when the smoke had cleared away was found to be 16-2 in favor of the Advanced Seniors. Ross made the lone score for the middle classmen but has since apologized for his misdemeanor. One student was heard to observe that Mr. Morey wouldn't have to sweep the floor for a while as there were never less than three at a time reclining on it. Ronco and Bean were the leading scorers for the winners.

The second game took place Wednesday, December 5, when another group of Advanced Seniors won over the luckless Juniors, 28-5. The battle was wild and woolly with never a dull moment. The Senior team, boasting such stars in its lineup as Herbert, Jordan, O'Brien, Kimball, Pillsbury, and Bowman, immediately assumed a lead which was never threatened. Ellis and Nutter got the points for the Juniors while The Great Jordan, Sheik Kimball, and "Little Man" Bowman did nobly for the winners. "Rudy" Herbert made only a brief appearance on the floor and disregarded the requests of his fans to return to the game later on. "Our Clyde" made several long shots while Jordan hit the line for substantial gains.

EXCHANGE NEWS

Houlton Highster

Houlton High School, Houlton, Maine.

Here's to the future of the Houlton Highster! Congratulations on your fine start and the best wishes for continued success.

Campus Comment

State Teachers' College, Bridgewater, Mass.

We enjoy your newsy paper. Your poll of students whose parents are Bridgewater alumni interested us.

F. S. N. S. Mirror

Farmington Normal School, Farmington, Maine.

Greetings to our sister publication. We like the organization of the "Mirror".

The Log

State Teachers' College, Salem, Mass.

Even the "Oracle" can't compete with fascinating facts found in "Scheherazade says."

Keene Chronicle

We find an excellent page in the "Chronicle" devoted to the Alumni.

ALUMNI

Among dormitory guests welcomed here recently were Altha Renell, Barbara Wakefield, and Eleanor Trask, all of the class of 1934. Miss Renell is now teaching at Island Pond, Vt.; Miss Wakefield at Porpoise Point; and Miss Trask at Beverly, Mass.

An interesting letter was recently received from Betty Hutton of the class of 1933. Miss Hutton is now teaching in Limon, Costa Rica. Her account of her travels is fascinating. Of one of the native schools she writes: "We went in. It was all open in front. Within were the darlingest children you ever saw—coal black! The teachers were Spanish and seemed to be very young—one about 16, I should say. The desks and chairs were wooden boxes—and poor ones at that. There were no books. Each child had a pencil and a notebook and that was all. They were learning Spanish."

Yuletide Greetings

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO THE FACULTY

The students of Gorham Normal School wish to express sincere wishes to the faculty for a most enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

For many of us the first enjoyment to be realized through this Christmas vacation will be the excitement of home-coming and a happy reunion with family and friends. A sense of relaxation and freedom from our usual every-day work cannot help but give us a holiday spirit. To this will be added the general feeling of peace and good fellowship that never fails to fill the air at Christmas time.

One of the greatest of the holiday joys will be obtained through the giving of presents, both to personal friends and to those less fortunate than we. On Christmas day will come the equally great pleasure of receiving brightly wrapped gifts from a gaily bedecked tree. Feasting, games, and merriment will add to the holiday celebration, while the chiming of church bells and the songs of the carolers will remind us that the day is a holy as well as a happy one.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

PEACE ON EARTH

"Peace on Earth," the angels sang
Two thousand years ago
When Christ our Lord came down to earth,
Born in a stable low.

"Peace on Earth"—The Eastern Star
Shone forth its Christmas story,
Bidding wise men from afar
To seek Him by its glory.

"Peace on Earth"—The joyous words
Brought by the Prince of Peace
Have gladdened hearts the ages through
And never will they cease.

"Peace on Earth"—The Star still shines,
The angels dailey sing;
The Prince of Peace looks ever down
On strife and sorrowing.

"Peace on Earth"—The statesmen say
That soon will this be so;
Yet nations still go forth to war
And men no peace can know.

"Peace on Earth"—This Christmastide
Let us sing the song again,
That men may know, through all the world,
Of God's good will to men.

Virginia Knight

DR. RUSSELL'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

I am glad to extend through this December copy of the Oracle to all its readers cordial Christmas greetings.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas will not give it to you, but wishing you a Merry Christmas may increase the joy of mine. Not the gifts we receive but those we offer bring abiding joy.

The gift we bestow on Christmas morning is of little joy to the receiver and of less to the giver unless it is the expression of our Christmas Spirit which has been growing all the year.

That Spirit grows as we walk in the step of Him who said, "I am the way", whose birthday we celebrate on Christmas day.

I can wish you nothing better than that you have the joy of Christmas in full measure. This I do.

THE BEST GIFT

The telephone rang sharply, its voice screaming an announcement of clamity to Old Ambrose Allen. "More trouble!" he muttered, picking up the offending instrument. "Golden Valley Company, Allen talking."

"Your Number One oil well here is on fire, Mr. Allen. Looks like the whole thing's going up in smoke; we're doing all we...."

"How in thunderation did the thing get going in broad daylight, tell me that", bellowed old Ambrose angrily.

"Well, you see, it being Christmas Day tomorrow and all that, the crew wasn't keeping a very close watch. Some of them"

"Will you hurry up and tell me or not?"

"Well, it looks like 'twas set by someone!"

Agast, Ambrose told the man to do what he could and hung up.

"More dirty work from the Acme people," he growled to no one in particular.

"Lady to see you, Mr. Allen," called the secretary.

"Send her in," groaned Ambrose, "Will my troubles never cease?"

"Hello, darling Uncle Ambrose," cried the blue-eyed angel who came floating in.

"Why, it's Helen. How come you to be chasing Uncle Ambrose at this time of day?"

"I'm going home tonight, but I thought I'd



call and leave your Christmas present myself."

The telephone rang again. "Allen speaking!" said old Ambrose. Helen, consulting her wrist-watch, left a flat package on the desk and a hasty kiss on Ambrose's furrowed forehead, and was off to catch the train.

"...offer you two hundred and fifty thousand for your holdings and machinery." came over the wire.

"Call me again in fifteen minutes," said old Ambrose.

Although he knew well enough what the answer would be, he called up his manager to inquire about the burning well.

"Total loss, I'm afraid, Mr. Allen." was the report.

"All right," said old Ambrose wearily. "All right." He hung up and sat there in despair, thinking, "I'll have to take their offer. When the red tape is unwound, I'll not have a cent in the world; but it's no use. They've got me licked."

As he sat there, his eyes fell upon the package that his niece had left on the desk. Wondering, he picked it up and, unwrapping it, held in his hands a nicely framed picture of a tall young man in an old western outfit. That the young man represented the Law was evident from a silver star, a single action six-shooter, and a moustache more fiercely outstanding than was the fashion even at the time of the picture, nearly half a century before.

Ambrose at last found his voice. "By chowder, when was that taken? Let's see ... Oh, I remember now. It was just after ... no, a month or so after I got the Hulitt gang."


He lifted his feet to the desk, and conjured up old memories of the long-forgotten days. He thought of the time when he had walked up the hill under the fire from the rifles of the outlaws; how he'd knocked Big Bill Hulitt unconscious, and held the rest of the gang with an empty gun until help arrived, and then passed out of the picture.

He lifted the telephone. As the Acme man finished speaking, old Ambrose, with his eyes on the picture, informed him that he could take his two hundred fifty thousand dollars, and jump in the lake with it.

"Now I've done it." He groaned, answering the telephone again. "Allen speaking."

"This is Waterman from California calling." The speaker's voice was hoarse from excitement. "Your diggings out here have run into helium gas!"

"Very much of it?"



"Biggest strike yet, the state man says."

When Ambrose came to, his secretary removed the wet towel from his forehead and asked anxiously, "What is the matter, Mr. Allen? Was it that awful picture that made you faint?"

"That awful picture," said Ambrose happily, "is the best Christmas present I ever had."

F. Randall Staples

POETRY CLUB PLAYS SANTA CLAUS

The Poetry Club, a comparatively new but very active organization, has adopted one of the mountain schools of Kentucky as a Christmas project.

The school is situated in Big Creek, Clay County, Kentucky. It has an enrollment of twenty-six pupils, ranging in age from five to fifteen. They are poverty-stricken, lacking even the necessary pencils and paper to keep them all working at the same time.

The members of the Poetry Club packed a Christmas box to send to these children in the hope that it might bring a little of the holiday cheer into the lives of these pupils as well as make their schoolroom more attractive. Books of children's poetry, colored crayons, toys, attractive pictures, and Black Sambo stories are some of the things that were included.

Miss Lewis, faculty advisor of the Club, read an appeal which appeared in the Boston Transcript from the teacher of the school, who is only a young girl. The members of the Club came to her assistance, and together they are doing their best to help out the situation.

The other organizations of Gorham Normal School extend congratulations to the Poetry Club for their success in this expression of the true Christmas spirit.

GLEE CLUBS SING TO SHUT-INS

It has been the custom in the past years for the combined Glee Clubs to sing carols to the shut-ins in the village of Gorham. It was expected that the Cantata would be substituted for this this year; but, on the request of many people in the town, Miss Andrews consented to include the carol singing in the Christmas program of the Clubs.

Last evening the members of the Clubs sang at many homes carrying Yuletide greetings to these people. After the singing, they called on Miss Wood who served them welcome refreshments.

